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Sporkin Judgeship Advances

Associated Press

The Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday unanimously approved President Reagan's nomination of CIA general counsel Stanley Sporkin to be a U.S. District Court judge here.

Sporkin was nominated 17 months ago but waited through five closed hearings and another closed meeting that was held just before the vote that sent his name to the full Senate.

During those sessions, Sen. Jeremiah Denton (R-Ala.) presented allegations that the nominee obstructed an FBI investigation into the release of classified information, according to several sources who spoke on condition that they not be named.

Denton told reporters after the vote that he supported Sporkin because "some of the allegations were not proved. I don't know beyond a reasonable doubt. At this point, I'm

leaving the man untainted until [the allegations] are proved beyond a reasonable doubt."

Denton said witnesses in the closed hearings gave conflicting testimony under oath. He added that it might take a perjury investigation to decide who was telling the truth.

After their closed meeting yesterday, committee members immediately took a voice vote to approve Sporkin without debate. Sporkin served as the enforcement chief of the Securities and Exchange Commission in the 1970s.